

NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

Methods Proposed to Increase the Population of France.

“ FREEDOM FROM TAXATION.

1. That large families be freed from taxes. For instance, the father of four living children would have no income tax to pay, when the income is less than 30,000 francs (£1,200 at par). But, on the other hand, bachelors would have their income tax raised by 50 per cent., and the childless married taxpayers would have theirs raised by 20 per cent.

2. That large families would be granted a reduction in inheritance taxes. For instance, when a father or a mother left four living children at their death, there would be no fees if the personal property or real estate did not exceed £8,000. But, on the other hand, an only son would have his inheritance tax increased threefold.”

“ PREMIUMS IN OPERATION.

3. That in order to avoid the parcelling out of inheritances, the freedom of testing be granted to all Frenchmen.

4. That premiums be allotted by the State and by the municipalities to all large families. Thirty French departments already have instituted bonuses.

In the department of the Rhone, for instance, a sum of 300 francs is paid to every mother of a family who bears her third child. The sum is increased up to 1,000 francs for the tenth child. It is now proposed to extend this measure to all the departments and to increase the sum.

CHEAPER HOUSES.

5. That, inasmuch as one of the principal causes of depopulation is the lack of housing, numerous cheap houses be constructed, with a priority for lodging those families who have several children.

6. French railway companies already have consented to reductions on the rate of the railway tickets to large families. Why, asks the Parliamentary Commission, has the same advantage not been granted in all the large towns to families travelling by the subway or in the trams?

Why should there not be a reduction on the price of gas or electricity for fathers of four children, with an increase of the same rates for the childless families?”

“ HIGHER SALARIES.

7. It is proposed that all the large industrial and commercial companies take into account the number of children which their employees have charge of when calculating their salaries.

8. The Commission requests that a double suffrage be granted to the fathers of families. At present every man has only the right of a single vote.

It is proposed to grant two votes to the father of four children. It is likewise proposed, since the women are not admitted to vote, to grant one vote to the mother of four children.

LIFE OR DEATH.

The very enumeration of these remedies indicates how great is the evil. One thing is certain, and that is that France must wake up, and wake up quickly. It is a question of life or death.

It would be in vain for France to have vanquished Germany if France were to be vanquished by depopulation."

STEPHANE LAUZANNE, Editor-in-Chief of *Le Matin*.
(*Pall Mall Gazette*, 15-iv-23.)

Birth Control.

An ecclesiastical contributor to the *Catholic Herald* (2 vi. 23) quotes an article by M. Henri Reverdy containing a study of the families of some of the greatest saints. These all appear to have been members of large families. What the writer, however, fails to point out is that the saints themselves have been almost invariably celibate, so that the most distinguished member in each of these families has perforce left no heirs. The sterilization of brains by voluntary celibacy in the Roman Catholic Church has been far more disastrous to that body than any loss that may be anticipated by birth control in the ordinary population.

E.I.C.

Working Men on Birth Control.

The following Manifesto has been issued by the Working Men's (Propaganda) Committee, Walworth Birth Control Centre.

WHAT WE BELIEVE.

Happy and healthy children help to make happy parents.

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To bring up children in happiness and health it is necessary to provide them with :—

A sufficient quantity of food.

Warm clothing and good weatherproof boots.

Toys and opportunities for play and sport.

Occasional holidays in or excursions to the country.

Sufficient breathing space in their homes.

Opportunities for acquiring habits of personal cleanliness.

A good education, including technical instruction in some reliable way of earning a decent living.

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All this costs money.

Very few working men can give these benefits to their children if they have large families.

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Large families are good things for healthy parents with large incomes ; they constitute a crushing burden for the poor.

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Asylums, reformatories, and prisons are filled with people of all ages who, in most cases, are in their present position as a consequence of neglect in childhood.

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In spite of many well-intentioned reformers and the great efforts of trade unions, the standard of living is kept down by the competition of men fighting each other for the bare necessities of life.

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While there are hundreds of men clamouring for each job that is going the standard of living will be forced down.

The good effects of political reforms are often not felt for generations, but a real and quick-acting remedy for most of the evil conditions existing to-day is now open to the working classes.

If working men and women desire increasing comforts with advancing years, if they want their children to have better chances in life than they themselves have had they must limit their families according to their means.

(*Sunday Express*, 17-vi-23.)

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At the Conference on Day Nursery Work, 29th-31st May, Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, whose topic was "The Danger to the Future Generation arising from Lack of Training in the Present," said that the question should be considered from the international, rather than from the national, standpoint. (Cheers.) The child born unfit had been and was a parasite living on other people. In a civilised country the population must be kept either by the workshops or the workhouses. If they wanted to produce a fit population they must begin with the mother. The pre-natal conditions must be the first concern.

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If we allowed the present rate of production of unfits to continue, the time must inevitably arrive when they would outnumber the fit, our wonderful country would be possessed by a people unable to hold its own in the struggle for existence, and it would go down just as surely as had other great nations in the past when they ceased to be virile. To those of them who had the knowledge how to check this danger the responsibility was terrible and he prayed that the conference would be able to stir the civilised nations to action, especially those of Western Europe.

(*Morning Post*, 30-v.-23.)

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Mrs. Hylton Dale (London), addressing the second day's meeting of the International Conference on Day Nurseries at Carnegie House, Piccadilly, yesterday, said : " I think it is unspeakably foolish to allow mentally defective people to have children." She added that

she knew of a mentally defective woman who had several illegitimate children, all of whom were abnormal.

The chairman (Dr. Knowles Stansfield) said that it was almost thirty years since he first advocated sterilisation of the mentally defective. His suggestion was not favourably received.

Muriel Viscountess Helmsley mentioned a case of a woman who had had eleven illegitimate children, all of whom were defective.

Dr. Stansfield said that parents suffering from chronic alcoholism would have abnormal children, deficient in moral sense. They could only remedy that deficiency by surrounding the children with a proper atmosphere. It appeared from certain researches that acquired character could become hereditary, and if that were so, improvement in the child would mean improvement in the future nation. Speaking of education the doctor said that no attempt should be made to give a child under 5 years anything more than kindergarten work. Nervous children should take only simple work until 6 or 7 years, or they would run a serious risk of irreparable injury. Moral principles should be instilled at the earliest possible time.

(*Daily Telegraph*, 31-v.23.)

Three Recent Clerical Pronouncements.

Speaking to-day at a meeting of the Blackpool Education Committee, the Rev. A. W. R. Little, Vicar of Blackpool, observed that clergymen had sometimes to marry people who undoubtedly ought not to be allowed to marry because of their health or mental outlook.

Since there was no law to prevent such marriages the law should endeavour to make the children as fit as possible.

"You may have not merely a C3 nation," declared the vicar, "but a C6 nation as the result of the union of people who are mentally unfit to have children."

(*Evening Standard*, 28-v.-23.)

The Rev. G. Walmisley-Dresser, Bedford Vicarage, Exeter, in a letter to the *Times*, stated :—

"In the course of an inquiry recently I was told that a large proportion of those who pass through institutions for the mentally defective "go to the bad" when they are released, through innate want of self-control. Does this not suggest topsyturvydom in our method of dealing with the problem? We spend fortunes and take the greatest pains with these unfortunates . . . for what? To let them loose in order that they may continue to multiply and replenish the earth with their kind. It is high time to concentrate on prevention rather than cure, and the only certain means is the sterilisation of all the obviously unfit."

(*Times*, 29-v.-23.)

In an article advocating large families, 2-iv.-23, the Rev. Hugh Chapman (Chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Savoy) concludes :—

"No sane person would counsel the offer of prizes for large families, nor would any reasonable writer urge unhealthy humans to marry, or, married, to produce large families. Still less would he advocate a

woman being compelled to bear more children when she is physically incapable of mothering those she has borne. Contrariwise, I think that those couples who can only produce unhealthy or imbecile offspring, and do so, should be separated by law, while (tell it not in Gath), I am strongly in favour of a quietus for incurable progeny on the verdict of a sound pathologist, countersigned by the parents."

BEYOND ARGUMENT.

"As for the advisability of sterilising the unfit I should have thought it beyond argument. I counsel only healthy persons to have large families, and these, no doubt, are declaring that I have overlooked the great barrier—cost of keep and education. That is not so. I am of the opinion that to restrict the number of children because, otherwise, the eldest son cannot go to Eton, or that girls may have to fend for themselves (the *sine qua non* of evolution) is wickedness in the guise of prudence. I agree with one of my friends, a crippled hawker, father of fourteen, all of whom are flourishing (except those killed in the war) that stock is money, and that children are assets, not liabilities."

(*Sunday Express*, 10-vi.-23.)

Canon Barnes on Eugenics and Christianity.

BRITISH SCIENCE GUILD.

A small but select company gathered at the annual dinner of the British Science Guild, held at the Prince's Restaurant, Piccadilly, last night, when several of the speakers referred to the interest among the people to-day in scientific subjects, and the need for spreading this knowledge.

Canon E. W. Barnes, proposing "The British Science Guild," said we needed international peace, and we could only get it if the rapid increase in the populations of Europe came to an end, which meant that each nation must grow in strength, not by enlarging its numbers, but by improving the quality of its citizens. The suggestions for practical measures to this end were bound to evoke the hostility of prejudice, which would claim religious sanction. As necessity drove us or our descendants forward, he was certain that a bitter conflict would ensue. It would, he was afraid, be long before men realised that there was no difference between the ideals of the eugenicist and the teachings of Christ.

(*Times*, 29-v.-23.)

The Marriage Bureau in Vienna.

By HEDY VERENA.

During a recent visit to Vienna I had the good fortune to be granted an interview with Professor Tandler, the Minister of Public Health, and one of the busiest men in the town, on the Marriage Bureau scheme at work in that city.

The present conditions in Vienna, with abnormal difficulties of housing, clothing, and feeding, have made his a very anxious and

arduous branch of public service. But here as elsewhere human invention has been equal to the effort of mitigating and alleviating the results of Austria's disastrous peace.

Eugenics, which for a long time before the war, were considered a freak theory, have now passed into the sphere of practical legislation. "The care of the race," said Dr. Tandler, "begins rightly with the union of the parents. We, in this city, have been the pioneers in instituting a 'Marriage Advice Bureau,' where those who are undertaking the responsibilities of married life can seek free expert medical advice: The physician in charge has facilities for calling into consultation various specialists, alienists, or any opinion that a case may call for.

EXPERT FORECASTS.

"The bureau is conducted on an entirely voluntary basis," went on the Professor. "I am strongly opposed to the idea of a compulsory medical certificate for marriage, on the ground that it would only lead to evasions, as has been abundantly proved in America. It is a well-known fact, for instance, that in those States in which the certificate has been compulsory, young couples circumvent the law by the simple expedient of crossing the border into another State. In each case heredity and personal medical history have to be considered. It is true that our knowledge of the working of the laws of heredity is still in its infancy, but by comparisons, statistics, and deductions, the specialist can now fairly determine the chances in favour of healthy offspring. The main disease with which the experts have to deal, apart from congenital organic defects, are tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and mental affections. Then there are cases where a course of treatment is advisable before marriage can be justified.

"Although the bureau has only been in existence for half a year," said Professor Tandler, "the demands on it have been so extensive that the hours of consultation have already had to be doubled.

POLICY OF SELF-HELP.

"Our next care is for the expectant mother, who is here beset with exceptional difficulties as regards nutrition, and every effort is being made to cope with these. No child is born without coming under the direct care of the Welfare Authorities. Illegitimate children have as general guardian the Juvenile Protection Department, and a special Legal Protection Bureau has been formed, which collects contributions from the fathers of children born out of wedlock towards the care and education of the child.

"It is the deliberate policy of the reorganised town council to insist on the contributions of parents and relatives in each case according to their capacity, and in this they are assisted by a well conducted Investigation Department. I am glad to say that already an almost incredible improvement in the sense of personal responsibility can be seen in the population. The community spends daily at least a milliard kronen for health and welfare.

"I would specially emphasise," he concluded, "that the Vienna Town Council concentrated on a truly rational policy of self-help,

and this even shows itself in the nomenclature of our institutions, which are no longer 'Poor Relief,' but 'Welfare Centres.' The whole structure is based on the idea of helping people without degrading them to beggars."

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Westminster Gazette, 8-iv.-23.)

Immigration and the Unfit.

"Issues of great importance both to the Dominions and to the Mother Country were raised by Dr. C. K. Clarke in the Maudsley Lecture delivered on Thursday. Dr. Clarke, who is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, devoted a considerable portion of his lecture to the subject of immigration into Canada. He views immigration from the mental standpoint, and declares emphatically that the Dominion must take steps to protect itself against the entry of those who are mentally or morally unsound. To show that the danger of such immigration is real, he presented statistics of 5,800 children who were brought for examination to a National Mental Hygiene psychiatrist. Of these children no fewer than 1,386 were found to be "mentally subnormal" to such a degree that they were incapable of being educated at an ordinary school. Dr. Clarke declared that only twenty-five per cent. of these defective children were Canadians, while thirty-three per cent. were foreign born, and the remainder were children of immigrants who had recently arrived. Dr. Clarke described a personal experience which brought to his notice no fewer than 107 girls and twenty-four boys of the most defective and degenerate type—all sent by one immigration society. Most of these girls, he said, were persistently immoral, the majority being unmarried mothers. To the objection that these girls had been resident in Canada for some time before they went astray, he replied that a careful inspection before sending them and a rigid "sorting" at the port of arrival would have weeded them out.

That this reply is well founded there can be little doubt, for the study of psychology is now so far advanced as to afford a trustworthy means of detecting weak or degenerate, and therefore potentially immoral, types. These types are, without question, the architects of slums and the perpetuators of the worst side of city life. They are also, as a rule, a heavy burden on their neighbours, and on the community in general, for their children, for various reasons, tend to reproduce their evil traits. To exclude them from a population is, therefore, to secure that population against innumerable dangers and disasters. There may be objections to the strict applications of the principles which Dr. Clarke enunciates, but they are hardly likely to impress the healthy inhabitants of a country which is still in need of population. It is true that the exclusion of undesirables by one people necessarily imposes a greater strain on those countries which must continue to harbour them. The problem, in fact, like all those in which human health of mind or body is concerned, is in the last issue an international one. It can be resolved only by international effort—educative, hygienic, and medical."

(*Times*, 26-i.-23.)

Experimental Evidence for the Hereditary Transmission of Small Variations.

“The sudden evolution of a complex mimetic pattern, fully formed and complete, is difficult or even impossible to explain. We are compelled to believe that there has been a development in stages, each represented by a comparatively small variation. Certain authorities on heredity have maintained that such variations are not transmitted. An investigation designed to test this conclusion has been carried on with the common Currant Moth (*Abraaxas grossulariata*), and it has been shown that the fusion of two black patches on the fore wing into a single bar, present in the female parent, was transmitted to nearly all of her offspring. Next year will probably decide whether the transmission followed Mendelian laws; but Mendelian or non-Mendelian, the variation was certainly hereditary, and was of just such a kind and magnitude as would furnish one of the steps towards a complex mimetic pattern.”

E. B. POULTON.

Middle Classes in Europe.

In most of the continental nations the ancient character of the old University class is rather in danger of being ruined by the terrible struggle for existence. We should like to say only two words to-day about the condition of the student class in Germany and in Italy. In Germany before the war the social class from which the University students were drawn had become perhaps not always more intellectual, but constantly more wealthy. Statistics of the University students of Würtemberg state that, while in the year 1871, 75 per cent. of them were descended from fathers who had been in their youth University students themselves; in the year 1911 the percentage had diminished to 25 per cent.; the fathers of the remainder mostly occupied medium and high positions in trade, industry, banking and other lucrative kinds of professions. To-day the conditions of University students in Germany are extremely bad. According to some statements of Doctor Walter Schœne, of Leipzig, 90 per cent. of the students have a standard of life very much inferior to that of the average unskilled young workmen of 19 or 21 years of age. The income of the majority of the University students amounts to only the third part or the half of the income of people of the same age employed in manual labour. It is therefore necessary for them (though the generous help of British Quakers did already greatly improve their condition) to look for work and salaries elsewhere. Indeed, a great many of them take positions as mine workers in the holidays. Their number seems to be nearly 20,000. That is, of course, an “University extension” of quite a different kind from what the University students imagined before the great war. Besides the dangers to their health and their professional work, this collaboration of students for about four months yearly in every kind of industrial undertaking involves the danger of conflicts with the working class, mainly because the student workers

have no legal guarantee against unemployment and do not share either the ideas or the needs of the real workman, who in time of crisis may come to regard his students-comrades as blacklegs. In Italy things have not yet gone to such an extreme. Anyhow, there is no doubt that in the big Universities of the country only a very small portion of the University students, certainly not more than the tenth part of them, are attending the lectures, while the rest of them are occupied in gaining their livings in many other occupations and professions, and a great number, not being able to meet the cost of living in towns, simply remain in their native towns and villages, living with their families and coming to a University only once a year for a few days in time of examination. Many other quotations, statistical, economical, sociological, biological and moral, could (and ought to) be given about so serious a matter which threatens to bring to complete ruin that small but important class of men whom we are accustomed to consider as the fine flower of the European nations.

(PROFESSOR) ROBERTO MICHELS.

“Nederlands Tijdschrift Voor Geneeskunde.”

In an article in the “Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde” (the leading medical journal of Holland), 1923, II., p. 513, the Commission for Heredity of the Society, “The Dutch People,” tries to interest physicians all over the country in their work. After giving a survey of that which has been done in other countries in this field of research, and after mentioning the valuable work already done by a small number of medical practitioners in Holland, they call attention to the most interesting material lying in reach of physicians. In this article there are reproductions, on a small scale, of the pedigree charts which are at the disposal of all those who wish to co-operate in this work.

M. A. VAN HERWERDEN.

“Medical Heredity in Holland.”

A Dutch Industrial, Mr. C. N. J. Hioolen, leader of a well-known manufactory at the town of Delft, has written a genealogical book on his own family. The family registers ascend to Jehan Hiolle, born at Valenciennes in 1490. During the persecutions of the protestants in France, in the second half of the 17th century, one of the descendants Gerard Hiolle, emigrated to Holland; his French possessions were confiscated. He became wealthy in Haarlem; his family settled afterwards in Amsterdam. They always remained strenuous adherents of the protestant faith. During the subsequent centuries they continued to devote themselves to industry and trade (thus following their Valenciennes forefathers) up to and including the generation now living. Even those born under unfavourable circumstances often attained to industrial leadership. There are no militarists nor university students in the family, except one clergyman and his son in the beginning of the 18th century.

The family data can be traced in the Archives of Valenciennes and

Amsterdam. Those of Valenciennes were already partly published in a French genealogical work, when the author began his researches. This family history, printed in 50 copies, was only intended for the members of the family.

How many interesting data would be contributed to eugenical family research if the author in his noteworthy labour had been able to find some more details about the traits of this industrial French-Dutch family! The descendants who continue these well-founded registers will understand that they ought to hand on to posterity more detailed family history.

M. A. VAN HERWERDEN.

Eugenics in Holland.

In a recent meeting of the sociological section and the genetic and eugenic section of the "National Bureau of Anthropology," at Amsterdam, on June 13th, these sections have decided to fuse, so as to form one single section for *heredity, eugenics, social anthropology and special psychology*. Chairman, Prof. Roche, of Utrecht University (embryologist); Vice-Chairman, Prof. Steinmetz, of Amsterdam University (sociologist); Secretary, Dr. M. A. van Herwerden, of Utrecht University. In this meeting, Dr. van Herwerden gave a short account of the study of heredity and of eugenics work in other countries.

The "Netherland Scientific Breeders' Society," Chairman, Mr. Posthumus (ex-Minister of Agriculture), held a meeting in May, 1923, to decide upon the formation of a section for heredity of man and eugenics. Protests were made by the representatives of the society "The Dutch People" and the "National Bureau of Anthropology," at Amsterdam, on the ground that both these societies are doing and planning work in the same line. It would be a disadvantage to have different societies with the same aim in a small country like Holland.

Before decision was taken delegates of these three different societies came together on 21st June, 1923. The Breeders' Society, founded in 1915, with the aim of propagating the knowledge of scientific breeding among its members, already included special divisions for the breeding of horned cattle and poultry. Sections for scientific genetics and plant breeding are in preparation. In relation to the new section for heredity of man, the general name of the society will be changed in "Netherland Genetics Society."

The results of the meeting of delegates from the three above-mentioned societies have been as follows:—Considering that the study of heredity of man is ground common to all these three societies, decision was reached that: (1) Members of one society interested in human heredity would, as such, be members of the other societies; (2) That the Chairman and Secretaries of the sections would regularly enter into communication; (3) That the Special Committee elected in 1921 by "The Dutch People" for the study of human heredity ought to be enlarged so as to include a delegate of the "National Anthropological Bureau" and a delegate of the "Breeders' Society," if this

latter society still decided to establish a special section for the heredity of man, which indeed was the case in its second meeting on June 25th. Co-operation in this way will perhaps prove to be useful for the advancement of the knowledge of human heredity and eugenics in the Netherlands.

M. A. VAN HERWERDEN.

Medico-Sociological Section of the British Medical Association.

A day was given for discussion of Mental Deficiency on Friday, July 27th, during the Association's meeting at Portsmouth.

The President of the Association, Dr. Brackenbury, took the chair. The speeches are very fully reported in the *British Medical Journal*. It will be sufficient here to summarise the points discussed so that members may be interested sufficiently to refer to the full account. A most interesting event was Miss Evelyn Fox's exhibition of a film showing training of low grade defectives in one of the Institutes fostered by the Central Association for Mental Welfare. Miss Fox herself explained the film. It should be a great boon to relatives and local authorities to learn how much of comparative pleasure and activity can be brought into these pathetic and stunted lives by the right kind of institutional treatment.

The trend of the other papers may be briefly outlined :—

Dr. Potts showed how many social problems are inter-related with mental deficiency.

Mrs. Pinsent showed how difficult it is at this moment to deal thoroughly with the problem for the reason that administration is divided, allowing of many holes in the net which should take in all defectives. She outlined means of better co-ordination.

Dr. Macfie Campbell, Miss Fox and Dr. Prideaux, on the other hand, dealt with the practical difficulties of dealing adequately with the large numbers of cases which even the present defective scheme brings up. They all suggest some careful grading scheme whereby institutions would be reserved to the permanent segregation of low grade types, while the higher grades should receive only courses of training and be then relegated to "economic employment under Community Care."

Dr. Gibbons found in this aspect of the problem an additional argument for the racial safeguards of sterilization. He subsequently cleared up the confusion which some had admitted between simple sterilization and a-sexualization. It was evident that sterilization was not a solution that many were prepared to consider.

The heredity of deficiency was not seriously challenged, and the difficulties and dangers of segregation emerged, as it were involuntarily, in the discussion : they await an answer when time has allowed a fuller and clearer envisaging of these difficulties.